Agro Park near Darkhan city in Mongolia; signing of an agreement on visa free travel for diplomatic and official passport holders; and signing of a Protocol on the Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2006—2008.

Website of Haj Committee

1792. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be plseased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a separate and independent website has been created for the Haj Committee of India;

(b) whether it is fact that Haj Committee of India has received several complaints/suggestions to amend its website;

(c) if so, by when Government propose to take remedial action and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it would make a better sense if the website is launched under NIC since the Haj Committee of India is not meant for any commercial purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is for the Haj Committee of India to decide on the most efficient and cost effective means to launch and maintain its website.

Recognition of Hindi In UNO

†1793. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Institution relating to Hindi in India has demanded for working in Hindi/recognition of Hindi in United Nations Organization;

(b) if so, the action Government are going to take in this regard;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the specific problem to accord recognition to Hindi in United Nations Organization; and

(d) the number of languages in the world which enjoy recognition in the United Nations Organization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) The introduction of Hindi as one of the official languages of the United Nations has been raised in the World Hindi Conferences and other fora time and again. A high level Committee under the chairmanship of External Affairs Minister was constituted on 26th February, 2003 followed by a sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Minister of State for External Affairs in August, 2003 and a core-group headed by the Additional Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs in September, 2003 to look into this matter and prepare a road map for realizing the objective. As a step in this direction it was decided to prepare an Advocacy Paper to present the Indian case with regard to introducing Hindi in the UN. The draft Advocacy Paper has been prepared. However, this has implications, both financial and procedural as well as legal. The procedure for getting any language recognized as one of the Official Languages of the UN involves obtaining approval of the General Assembly to amend Rule-51 of the Rules of Procedure. Such a proposal has to be approved by more than half of the members of the General Assembly where every member-State has a vote. At present the proposal would require approval of 96 member-States given the current membership of 191. In addition, recognizing any language as the official language of the UN entails substantial increase in the expenditure of the UN wherefore every member country has to enhance its contribution, which is why most of the members remain passive to support such a proposal.

At present UN has six Official Languages, which are English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic.

Indian and Pakistani prisoners in the two countries

1794. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian and Pakistani prisoners, POWs and civilians, held captive in respective jails at present;